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"How beautiful the rolling prairies were before man's incoming. You never saw an old fashioned prairie 'breaking plow'. It was drawn by ten huge oxen and cut a furrow 30 inches across. The soil was cut only about two inches thick and was laid over as smooth and even as the boards of a floor. On the 'land side' stood in all the purity and freshness of its pasture beauty the native vegetation --on the other was a black field with not a vestige of a living plant to be seen. Such an outfit, and there were thousands of them at work all over the country would destroy in one hour more beautiful plants than had been collected by all the botanists of the state since the Indians were driven out."

--Michael S. Bebb, writing of a trip in 1850

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NATURAL AREA PROJECTS

TANNERSVILLE BOG. Nature Conservancy has taken an option on a 62 acre tract of cranberry bog in the Pocono region of Eastern Pennsylvania. Dr. Wm. A. Niering, Connecticut College, New London, is chairman of the newly formed Tannersville Bog Committee. Mrs. C. Reed Cary of the Conservation Council of Eastern Pennsylvania is aiding in the campaign to raise the $2,000 necessary to complete the purchase of this first portion of the projected Tannersville Bog preserve.

The bog contains such unusual and interesting plants as black spruce, tamarack, bog rosemary, sundew, pitcher plant, and dwarf mistletoe --plants ordinarily found much farther north. It has been the highlight of many field trips from New York, Philadelphia, and surrounding regions.

MIANUS GORGE. Several areas have been added to the Mianus River Gorge Natural Area Preserve since the key tract of 60 acres was purchased last June. A gift of about 4 adjacent acres was received during December from Arthur J. Cohen. Also during December a gift of 10 acres and purchase of 5 acres from Mary L. Day brought the total to 78.9 acres with a river frontage of 7/8 mile. An additional 15-18 acres will be purchased soon.

The tract is posted with "primitive area" signs and trails are marked. Mr. Randolph G. Pack, a trustee of the preserve, is heading a survey of the trees in the Gorge. The Mianus Gorge Preserve is located on the border of New York and Connecticut.

Mr. Robert J. Hamershlag of Katonah, N. Y., is chairman and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Anable, Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, Connecticut, are treasurer and secretary of the Mianus Committee.

BUTLER SANCTUARY. Employment of Mr. S. J. Lewis as custodian marks another step forward for the Arthur W. Butler Memorial Sanctuary near Mt. Kisco, New York. The 230 acre tract was given to Nature Conservancy by Mrs. Butler in late 1954.

A Butler Sanctuary endowment fund has been established through efforts of the Sanctuary Committee and contributions to the fund thus far total $9,880.

WISCONSIN OAK TRACT. A 13 acre tract of prairie and "oak opening" in southwestern Wisconsin is being acquired for preservation through the efforts of a special committee headed by Dr. John T. Curtis, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin.

The tract is on a limestone hill in the Driftless Area. The west side of the hill contains a small oak opening, or grove of open grown oak trees. The original trees remain intact as magnificent big trees 8-10 feet in circumference, as does a portion of the original prairie herbaceous flora. On the top of the hill new growth from grubs and saplings is beginning to fill in between the open-grown oaks while on the east side of the hill this filling process has continued to the point where there is a closed-canopy forest. The tract thus exhibits the complete transition from oak opening to oak forest.

The area is adjacent to a tract held by the University of Wisconsin Astronomy Department. If funds for its acquisition can be raised, it is anticipated management can be arranged between the Arboretum Committee and the Astronomy Department. Thus far, about $1,500 of the $2,000 necessary for the purchase is available. Contributions toward the remaining $500 are needed.

FIRE ISLAND BOG. On October 21, 1955, the Home Guardian Company of New York gave Nature Conservancy, through the Long Island Chapter, a tract of land at Fire Island Pines, N. Y. This tract, though it is relatively small in size, includes a fine bog with a good many examples of uncommon bog flora, such as rose pogonia, gerardia, ladies' tresses, spagnum moss, sundew, sheep laurel, azalea, blueberry, white violet and labrador tea.

The bog is surrounded by a subdivision and it is to be fenced. A committee of the Chapter will be responsible for maintenance of the preserve.

BERGEN SWAMP. The Bergen Swamp Preservation Society purchased 117 acres of Bergen Swamp, Genesee County, New York, during the past year. The Society now owns 833 of the 2,000 acres it hopes will eventially be included in this natural area preserve.

Bergen Swamp has long been an attraction to naturalists in the Rochester region. It is of particular interest to botanists because it contains remnants of a northern

Bergen Swamp *continued*

flora. It harbors birds seldom found nesting in this part of New York, including the black-throated green, Canada, hooded, and mourning warblers. Three reptiles not often found in this region, the Muhlenberg turtle, coal skink, and massasauga or prairie rattlesnake, occur here.

Work of the organization is supported by voluntary contributions. Nature Conservancy has had the good fortune to play a small part in a recent $3,000 contribution which helped make the last land purchase possible. Persons wishing to aid the Society in its work may send contributions to Mr. H. Everest Clements, treasurer, 1116 Sibley Tower, Rochester 4, N. Y.

Lake George's Dome Island Goal of Fund Raising Drive

By TIP ROSEBERRY

If any one of the myriad islands with which Lake George is studded may be considered a trademark of the lake, it is Dome Island. Standing highest of them all, it crests at 85 feet above waterline, and is beautifully symmetrical, almost round, with a full crown of trees.

Dome is one of the non-state islands, privately owned, but never despoiled because its shores are too steep for ready landing. In order to keep it that way, the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy is trying to take it over.

The owner will transfer the island to this group as a gift, providing a custodial fund of $20,000, to insure its maintenance and protection, is raised. So far the chapter has $6,500 in contributions — largely from the Lake George region. It needs $13,500 more.

CONSPICUOUS ISLAND

Dome is conspicuous in location, being in mid-lake nine miles north of Lake George village and almost in the dooryard of the Sagamore Hotel. Every tourist who takes the Lake George cruise admires it. Just south of The Narrows, it is one of the 30 islands that have remained in private hands. Nearly all the state-owned islands, about 125 in number, are north of The Narrows.

The island is oval shape, about a half-mile long. Its heavy forest may be one of the last stands of virgin timber in the state. Because of its natural condition, animals often use it as a way-station in swimming the lake. One of the aims of the Nature Conservancy is to keep it intact for study by natural scientists.

Dome Island is a geological novelty. Nearly all the others are of exposed rock. This one is a glacial kame — a high mound of gravel heaped on rock base. The glacial soil acounts for the vegetation. It also argues for protection of the forest cover. Without that, he island could quickly be desroyed by erosion. That is the reason against opening it to campers.

ADOPTED PROJECT

The Nature Conservancy group, of which Dr. Robert Rienow, a professor at State Teachers College, is chapter chairman, has adopted it is a project "as a contribution to the future of America. If only to look at." The idea was initiated by Dr. Alvin G. Whitney, retired from the State Museum, a Lake George fancier and a founder of the Conservancy chapter.

Knowing that John S. Apperson of Schenectady, a retired GE engineer, had bought Dome Island 20 years ago merely to preserve it, at a time when it was threatened with development, the chapter approached him. Apperson agreed to give it, providing the "endowment fund" could be raised. He has spent much on it himself: e g., replacing boulders which protect the shores against wave action.

Donations to the fund may be sent to Dr. Irving Langmuir, the noted GE scientist, 1176 Stratford Rd., Schenecady 8. Checks should be payable to: Nature Conservancy—Dome Island Fund.

TUES., JAN. 17, 1956 *** ALBANY, N. Y., TIMES-UNION

TO HELP WITH A NATURAL AREA PROJECT- -

You are invited to help assure the success of one or more of the natural area projects now underway. You may contribute to any specific project by sending your check to the central office of Nature Conservancy with a note indicating to which project it is to be applied.

Another way you can help is to contribute to the Fund for Natural Areas or to the General Operating Fund of Nature Conservancy. A contribution to the latter constitutes payment of membership dues and makes possible the continuance of this work.

POINT LOBOS RESERVE

A well documented "case history" of the preservation of a natural area is presented in "Point Lobos Reserve: Interpretation of a Primitive Landscape". This 96 page booklet was edited by Aubrey Drury and published in 1955 by the California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento. It sells for $1.

Point Lobos Reserve State Park, on the coast of California, has been referred to as "the greatest meeting place of land and water in the world". It became part of the state park system in 1933, following a long and involved history of ownership, use, and efforts toward its preservation. After the tract was acquired, the Save the Redwoods League formed a Point Lobos Advisory Committee of scientists, artists, and conservationists. With the help of a grant from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, specialists in many fields were called in to observe the area and record its character. They mapped the topography, analyzed the geological structure, and plotted the vegetative cover. 300 species of plants, 178 vertebrate animals, and 88 marine invertebrates were listed. The experts studied the normal balance of conditions favorable to maintaining the plant and animal species and tried to relate this balance to human use of the area.

Results of these studies were embodied in a lengthy report. This was the basis for a Point Lobos Master Plan which was subsequently adopted by the California State Park Commission. It proposed "to keep at a high level of perfection the unique natural conditions upon which the greatest values of Point Lobos depend, in order to make these permanently available for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of the public."

The plan is one of moderation. Only trails lead into the finer and more perishable areas. The extent of roads has been reduced. Camping is forbidden but picnics can be held along the ocean shores. Rules against destroying plant and animal life are explained and enforced. Fires and smoking are prohibited.

The present book about Point Lobos interprets the work of specialists who studied the area. There are chapters on various groups of animals and plants, geology, history, landscape, protection of the primitive, and the master plan. Persons attempting to preserve natural areas anywhere will find much information of value.

N. Y. FOREST PRESERVE

Fate of "detached areas" of the State Forest Preserve is a matter of current controversy. A proposal before the Milmoe Committee of the State Legislature would authorize the sale of parcels of forest preserve land 100 acres or less in extent located outside the Catskill and Adirondack state park boundaries. These boundaries are commonly referred to as the "blue line" since the parks are delimited on official state maps by blue outlines. Dedicated state lands, both inside and outside the "blue line", together constitute the State Forest Preserve which is set aside by Article 14 of the state constitution as "forever wild forest land". The Adirondack and Catskill parks, on the other hand, are large zones administered for wilderness type recreation. They encompass both public forest preserve lands and private holdings.

Some persons who advocate the sale of the detached areas do so on the basis that the outlying forest preserve lands do not add to the wilderness character of the parks and therefore do not need to be preserved. Others may support the idea on the basis that it is difficult for the state to maintain widely scattered tracts. They also claim that as a result of inadequate controls some areas were classified as forest preserve lands which should not have been.

Opponents of the measure believe it is highly desirable that the detached areas be retained as preserves. They claim these tracts have great natural area values and that they are also important for public recreational use, watershed protection, and erosion prevention, even though they are not part of an extensive wilderness. Statements resulting from a survey of the areas sponsored by the Milmoe Committee have been challenged by those who claim to have found conditions considerably at variance from the worthless character reported. Opponents of the proposal argue that no constitutional change is necessary to reclassify areas which are not wild forest land and therefore were improperly designated as forest preserve lands in the first place.

ALABAMA STATE PARKS

Cutting of timber in the 4,000 acre Little Mountain State Park on the shore of TVA's Guntersville Reservoir has been stopped. Mr. William H. Drinkard, Director of Conservation of Alabama announced this action in a letter to TVA dated January 24, 1956. Credit for saving the park from further destruction goes largely to the Guntersville Junior Chamber of Commerce and the efforts of Claude Herbert Smith, its chairman of public relations, and to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The cutting operation had been characterized by Mr. Fred M. Packard of the National Parks Association as being "as destructively-conducted an abuse of an area reserved for park purposes as I have seen anywhere in the Nation." Mr. Packard visited the park on January 20 representing the Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the Wilderness Society.

While much damage was done in the course of the cutting, it is believed that some of the best primeval areas in the park remain undamaged. Unfortunately, however, timber cutting in Alabama state parks was not confined to Little Mountain. Dr. Herbert A. McCullough, Nature Conservancy representative in Alabama, reports that a heavy logging operation has been underway in Oak Mtn. State Park about 18 miles south of Birmingham. Timber operations are also said to be underway in Valley Creek and Bladon Springs state parks. The Alabama Nature Conservancy group, the State Izaak Walton League, the Jaycees, and other organizations are working to bring a halt to the current cutting.

The Alabama legislature has taken a great interest in the state parks as a result of the current situation and an improved park law for Alabama may result.

SCHOOL NATURAL AREAS

Nature Conservancy now has a committee on natural areas for schools. Object of the committee is to urge preservation of natural areas as outdoor laboratories. Greatest opportunity for doing this is in connection with new school construction, when destruction of natural conditions is likely to be total unless steps are taken to head it off.

Dr. John W. Brainerd of Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, is chairman of the committee. He has prepared an edited tape recording of the conference on school natural areas held by the Massachusetts Nature Conservancy on October 8, 1955. It runs for an hour and fifty minutes and it is suggested that portions be selected for playing at various types of group meetings. The recording is available without charge, and requests should be addressed to Dr. Brainerd.

We have now established a special Natural Areas for Schools Fund. Persons interested in furthering this fundamentally important work are invited to contribute.

MICHIGAN AREAS COUNCIL

An agreement of cooperation is now in effect between the Michigan Natural Areas Council and Nature Conservancy. The arrangement brings into closer harmony the efforts of both organizations to assure the preservation of outstanding areas of educational, scenic, and scientific interest. As a result of the agreement, Michigan members of either organization will automatically become members of the other. Contributions to either group originating from Michigan will be apportioned, 70% going to the Council and 30% to the Conservancy.

The Michigan Natural Areas Council was formally organized in 1952. Prior to that time the natural areas preservation program was promoted by the Michigan Association for Native Plant Protection, which in 1949 became the Michigan Botanical Club. Present chairman of the Council is Paul W. Thompson of Birmingham.

As a result of the Council's efforts, areas have been dedicated for preservation by the Michigan Conservation Commission in Wilderness State Park, Highland Recreation Area, Porcupine Mountains State Park, Tahquamenon Falls State Park, and Lake Superior State Forest. At the present time the Council has 8 site and 11 reconnaissance committees at work inspecting and preparing reports on Michigan areas.

POPULATION SCHOLARSHIP

Students who are planning to do graduate work during the 1956-57 school year on some phase of the relation of human population to the preservation of natural conditions may apply for the Nature Conservancy $500 scholarship award. Details are available from our central office. Applications are due by April 1, 1956.

The award is intended to stimulate contributions to the study of an important aspect of man's relation to the land. This is the problem of preserving natural areas and the native aspects of the landscape for their material, scientific, scenic beauty, and open-space values in the face of expanding populations and intensifying land-use.

SAVE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

National Wildlife Week, March 18-24, will focus attention on endangered species of wildlife. National Wildlife Federation is sponsor of this event, which provides an opportunity for conservation organizations to coordinate their publicity efforts. Local groups in particular are urged to arrange meetings, radio programs, and newspaper publicity.

Included on the partial listing of endangered wildlife of the United States are the following:

Mammals: Grizzly bear (western states), black-footed ferret, Tule elk, sea otter, kit fox, woodland caribou, gray wolf, red wolf, desert and Sierra bighorn sheep, manatee, Key deer, and Caribbean monk seal.

Birds: Ivory-billed woodpecker, whooping crane, Everglade kite, Mississippi kite, swallow-tailed kite, white-tailed kite, roseate spoonbill, Attwater's prairie chicken, Eskimo curlew, trumpeter swan, Hudsonian godwit, Florida sandhill crane, California condor, Laysan teal, nene, Aleutian tern, Florida burrowing owl, peregrine falcon, red-bellied hawk, Kirtland's warbler and Cape Sable seaside sparrow.

Fish: Lake sturgeon, grayling and Great Lakes whitefish.

Reptiles: American crocodile and green turtle.

MORAGA REDWOODS

The Moraga redwoods area near Canyon, California, is threatened by a proposed highway between Oakland and the outlying suburbs of Contra Costa County.

This area includes the valley of San Leandro Creek. One side of the valley has a variety of interesting vegetation types, including the rare knobcone pine which occurs in only about two dozen small and widely scattered stands. The knobcone pine is located along the crest of the ridge on an exposure of tilted shale beds. Associated with it are a number of flowering native shrubs --chaparral pea, chinquapin, bush poppy, huckleberry, manzaneta, ceaothus, and toyon. Live-oak interspersed with madrone occurs lower on the slope, with laurel in the moister situations. The other side of the valley is clothed with a second-growth redwood forest a hundred years old. The area, along with the adjacent Redwood Regional Park, constitutes a virtual wilderness abounding with wildlife despite the fact that it is adjacent to Oakland. A portion is set aside in public ownership as watershed land.

Fortunately, another route is available for the proposed highway and it apparently has engineering advantages over the route down the valley of San Leandro Creek. Hearings on the highway proposal are to be held before July in Contra Costa County. Mr. William Drake, Canyon, is heading up Nature Conservancy efforts in behalf of the area.

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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

Nature Conservancy
4200 22nd Street, Northeast
Washington 18, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is $.....

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